12/16/68

Dear Paul,

Got home last night, returning a little earlier than expected in order to clean things up and prepare something for the Garrison office and be able to return there for the trial. In fact, they want me there before it and through it. This creates certain problems for me, including financial ones, but there is no choice. The situation there is much worse than I can make you understand or safely say. In addition to everything else, what we have just overcome is but a single hurdle. More and perhaps more serious ones remain, though that may be hard to conceive when I say we have just saved that investigation and everything that might have been ruined by its ignominious demise.

There has been an enormous internal sabotage that wasted just about all the time, effort and money expended down there. Little real work has been done. Those I have named to you by phone had it ringed in the nose and led it down one blind alley after another, promising each new one was the right one. I am so partisan and had an immediate project that required as much as 22 hours of work a day I could not do what I wanted with Bill. I spoke to Louis and got the file of his memos and correspondence. Louis and others had had the same apprehensions but had been powerless. I glanced through these and they confirmed my suspicions. Almost without exception, every bad trip started with him. It is like pushing buttons. It is, in fact, much worse, because he worked with his namesake to synergize what he was up to and between the two of them they ganged up to really frighten Jim, keep him afraid he'd be killed before he finished his job, afraid to use the mails or the phones, etc. I gave these to Vince. He is to do a memo on analysis. I did one that I just couldn't complete, on Boxley and Palmer. Palmer is bad, regardless of motiv or connection or intention. He has been silent since two days after I blew his mind, with Bud present. That was a week ago Saturday. When he realized what had happened, he complained to Barbara Reid and then folded his tent. He had moved to New Orleans. I doubt he'll stay there. Well, when you see Vince's memo, if he does what he is supposed to, you will understand that the only question remaining about your Bill is was he an agent. The effect makes this immaterial to me, if not to Vince, who is convinced he is, as I am not. I am not that Boxley was, either, and again it makes no difference to me. Vince accused Jaffe of working for CIA, which I regard as a horrible thing. He really went berserk on this. I could not stop him, could not reason with him. Everybody is a former, knowing paid agent to him, alas. To me it is so much worse if these were not agents. V doesn't see it that way. I spoke to him last night. He hasn't changed. Jim and Louis have the flu. I expect it will sweep the office, which also will not help, because with this enormous diversion of effort and energy, there remains too much to do before the Shaw trial and Jim behaved stupidly there. He picked the worst possible date and it will, unless thrown out of court, overlap Mardi Gras. I hope that either I escape it or get it immediately, so I can be in the best possible shape when the trial starts. I'll be having to copy many files and have them in hand down there.

Moss spoke very highly of your Rush memo. I asked him to compare it with what the "professional" had done, and your entire face would have matched your beard if you'd heard the flattering response.

If things remain as they are, Alcock will be handling the trial, with him and others helping. I suppose Jim will do some of the questioning. I saw little of him, which has been the case for a long time. He regards me as a mirror and does not like what he sees. This is why I immediately siezed upon Vince, for I knew if I said day he'd say night. I stayed away, leaving him almost entirely to Vince, who with him (and, I regret, in no other way) did a remarkable job. No one else could have done it. We are all greatly in his debt. Jim is a very proud man, with an ego like none I have ever encountered. Just looking at me shocks it.

This experience must have been a shattering one for him. When he finally realized that those he had trusted most, been most intimate with, are those who for whatever motive had undertaken his ruin, it must have been very hard. The press release was his idea and his words. I saw it before it was issued. I suggested some changes. Alcock and Sciambra agreed they should have been made. However, both feared that if they suggested any change it would have been an additional blow to him. As it turned out, the Supreme Court decision almost entirely blotted it out.

The rest will have to wait until we are face to face. It was a frightful nightmare. more so for me because I have been living it for so long, frustrated that no one else recognized it.

One of the things for which I will prepare is this situation: Either Clark or his successor or an FBI agent or agents are called as witnesses and asked to produce certain documents or give certain testimony and refuse, claiming executive privilege; I want then to show that the Department of Justice is simply suppressing information there is neither need nor justification for. I have a copy of CD 75, page 301, which is suppressed. It is a perfect case in point. I have the correspondence of which you have copies. If you have anything along this line (and not just DJ), I will want copies. Not now. Let it wait until it is as complete as possible. Say 1/15, with a copy to me here and another to me c/o Louis down there. If Moo has his way I may be there then. (One of the good effects of all this is the change it wrought in him, all for the better. He still lacks confidence, but his attitude is excellent, which it had not been, as I saw it.) So, with this situation, I will be prepared either to be a witness and offer these things in evidence or hold a press conference. You will be getting the most recent I have on it. When you can, let me know in general what you have on this. How soon can you have the 544-handbill thing wrapped up? (Core did give a different copy to the FBI. I'll do a memo on this.)

I will be sending you a copy of the very long analysis I had to do in too-great haste on Boxley-Perrin-Rich-Palmer. It just got too long, just had to leave out important things because I ran out of time. It is to be held confidential, save for Hal and Jim. Since writing it I have learned that even the witnesses are misquoted. One place you'll find reference to an engineer and radio (communications) equipment. In reality it was a pile of beer cans and cigarette butts. When you come to that, this will make sense to you. The other things I may be sending I do not now recall, but will explain each as I do.

Your letter reached me at Matt's Saturday. Of the slips enclosed, the one that was meant for you is the one on Manson's Marble and Granite. The others were to give you more phone numbers for that list you have prepared. Miguel Cruz was Alpha 66. Bringuier was also their spokesman. And there is no doubt of his perjury. I will have a memo and a transcript of a four-hour interrogation of Philip Geraci. The encounter in Bringuier's store was July 5, not August 5, which changes everything, does it not? Liebeler also altered the Blalock deposition to shield this perjury, and I also have that in hand. So, I gave you Cruz's numbers.

I phoned Doyle, who was very cooperative. He is to make two copies of the film. He is specific on its editing and described one of the things he knows was edited out, Oswald getting into the police car. He will keep one copy and send Louis two. One of these will come to us. We will have to do the frame-by-frame work down there. If necessary, I will do it or have it done. He had gotten a letter on Garrison's letterhead saying a representative of the office would call. No one did. He was perplexed. Louis is going to find out who wrote the letter and then did nothing, for this would have been a very important investigative lead that long ago.

This work will further delay my reorganization of my chaotic files. Too bad you are spending money for those notebook pages when I have all of them.

Jim and notebooks: by all means. Could be very important, and I will certainly want for AGENT OSWALD. I've done some of it locally, & have pictures, etc.

I disagree with you on your Tumes interpretation. He excepted those two pages as not in his handwriting. Not only does your valuable citation of Bishop bear on this but it was indispensable. I'll have to get that book but am even less in a position to pay for it.

I did receive the indexes. Now more than ever I wish there were a consolidated one.

I would like to get a copy of the Craddock report CD107, 373-4, to add to the appendix of COUP.

Hubert chickened out on his agreement to spend a day with me.

Bishop: I disagree with you on the notes. The citation from 472 is inevitably what I would expect., ditto 513, 546, first part. He used the last because he could not get anything else to quote. Also partly 644. Without something like this there could not be any autopsy, not even this very bad one.

My immediate plans are to get still another filing cabinet, perhaps even today, clean up the accumulation of my absence, and then get on preparing for going to N.O. I think we should all prepare for a grim future. And continue to do what we can to avoid it.

My thanks and my best to you all.

Sincerely,